Fireworks & Injuries

Leave it to the Professionals!!!

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Fireworks & Injuries

The extent of the problem…

… In 2001, four persons died and an estimated 9,500 were treated in emergency departments for fireworks-related injuries in the United States

… An estimated 12% of fireworks-related injuries treated in emergency departments required hospitalization

Fireworks & Injuries

Who is most likely to be injured?

- … About 50% of persons injured from fireworks are children ages 14 years and younger
- … Males represent 75% of all injuries
- … Children ages 10 to 14 years have the highest injury rate for fireworks-related injuries
- … Persons who are actively participating in fireworks-related activities are more frequently injured, and sustain more

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When/where do these injuries happen?

… Injuries occur on and around holidays associated with fireworks celebrations, (July 4th and New Year's Eve)

… Most of these injuries occur in homes. Other common locations include recreational settings, streets or highways, and parking lots or occupational settings

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What kinds of injuries occur?

… Fireworks-related injuries most frequently involve hands and fingers (30%), eyes (28%), and the head and face (15%). More than half of the injuries are burns (60%); contusions and lacerations were the second most frequent injuries (20%)

… Fireworks also can also cause life-threatening residential fires

Fireworks & Injuries

What fireworks cause the most injuries?

… Illegal large firecrackers represent 5% of all firecracker injuries

… Fireworks-related injuries are most commonly associated with “class C” fireworks, which are sold legally in many states. Firecrackers (25%), rockets (21%), and sparklers (11%) accounted for most of the injuries seen in emergency departments during 2001

… Sparklers were associated with the most injuries for children under five.

… For children ages five to 14 years and

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How and why do these injuries occur?

… <u>Fireworks type:</u> Bottle rockets can fly into one's face and cause eye injuries; sparklers burn at more than 1,000oF and will ignite one's clothing; firecrackers cause injuries when they explode at close range

… <u>Being too close:</u> Injuries may result from being too close to fireworks when they explode; for example, when someone bends over to look more closely at a firework that has been ignited, or when a misguided bottle rocket hits a nearby person

… Unsupervised use: children are 11 times

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How/why do these injuries occur (cont'd)?

… <u>Lack of physical coordination:</u> Younger children often lack physical coordination to handle fireworks safely.

… <u>Curiosity:</u> Children are often excited and curious around fireworks, which can increase their chances of being injured (e.g., when they re-examine a firecracker dud that initially fails to ignite)

… <u>Experimentation:</u> Homemade fireworks (e.g., ones made of the powder from several firecrackers) can lead to dangerous explosions

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What is the safest way to prevent fireworks injuries?

… The safest way to prevent fireworks- related injuries is to leave fireworks displays to trained professionals.

<u>NOTE:</u> In Germany, the use of fireworks is only allowed on New Year's Eve (Dec 31) and New Years Day (Jan 1) unless a waiver is